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MISSOURI RIVER HEADWATERS

When Lewis and Clark and their party arrived at Three Forks on July 26, 1805, a decision had to be made as to which river course would be most apt to lead them to a passage over the mountains to the Pacific Ocean. One river came from the south-southeast. This they named the Gallatin in honor of Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury. The middle route they named the Madison in honor of the Secretary of State, James Madison. The southwest fork was named the Jefferson for President Thomas Jefferson. Lewis wrote in his journal on July 27 that Clark had gone on ahead, but left a note "calculating on my taking the s.w. fork (the Jefferson), which I most certainly prefer as its direction is more promising than any other." An incorrect decision might have caused so much delay that early winter snows would have precluded a crossing on the correct route. History has proved their choice a wise one.

Thus the Missouri River Headwaters State Monument was a point of major decision in the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

This site was also the location of John Colter's historic encounter with the Blackfeet in 1808. You may recall that Colter was captured by the Blackfeet but not before one of the Blackfeet were killed in the encounter. Infuriated, the Blackfeet Chief decided to give his young men the sport of running Colter down on the cactus studded plain. Colter was stripped of his clothes and moccasins and given a hundred yard head start. About five miles away lay the Madison River and, surprising the Indians, Colter reached the bank of the river, swam under a pile of drift logs and remained hidden while the Indians searched for him. After dark, Colter crept out and traveled overland about 200 miles to Manual Lisa's Big Horn Post, where he arrived eleven days later, exhausted and starved.

In the middle 40's, Clark Maudlin, an employee of the Anaconda Smelter Company from Anaconda, visited the area on a picnic with his family. Remarks made during the picnic encouraged Mr. Maudlin with the historic importance of the area. Deciding that something needed to be accomplished if this site were to be preserved as a part of Montana history, Clark set about getting the job done. With friendly cooperation from local residents and an assist from many interested citizens around the state, he was able to raise the necessary funds to purchase the land. In 1947, Mr. Maudlin deeded the site to the State of Montana and it became a part of the state park system known as Missouri River Headwaters State Monument.

Clark Maudlin has retained his interest in the area throughout the years and has remained as caretaker of the park. He has accomplished most of the development work as this area has literally been his life.

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In 1966, the Parks Section acquired additional land that will be included in the monument site. With this new area, the Parks Section will be able to develop camping and picnicking areas and increase the fishing access to the Madison and Gallatin rivers.

FISH & GAME LEGISLATION

Montana sportsmen and other recreationists will be affected by a number of laws cleared by current legislation. Following are summaries of most bills which directly relate to outdoor recreation.

HB 105—Effective March 3, 1967

Beginning with the 1967 printing of big game licenses, more complete instructions for filling out game tags and tagging of big game animals will be printed on the backs of big game licenses. Penalties for hunting on private land without proper permission will also be printed on the backs of big game licenses.

HB 135—Effective July 1, 1967

This new provision to the law makes it possible for **enrollees** of a Job Corps camp located in Montana, after a period of 30 days within Montana, to purchase resident fishing licenses so long as they remain enrollees in a Montana camp.

HB 224—Effective July 1, 1967

For years, all children under 15 years old have been able to fish Montana waters without a license, observing fishing seasons and bag limits, of course. HB 224 has added another provision for nonresident youths.

Nonresidents under 15 may still fish, without having a fishing license, but provided that they are in the company of a valid Montana fishing license holder. Only one limit of fish will be allowed on each license in the party. For example, if one license holder accompanies two nonresidents under 15, who are fishing without licenses, the total fish caught by all of the three party members could be only one legal limit of fish.

HB 226—Effective May 1, 1967

This is the bill which provides for an increase in hunting and fishing license fees. Following is a summary of license fees as they will be beginning May 1, 1967: **Resident** — Fishing $4.00; Bird, $2.00; Elk, $3.00; Deer "A" $3.00; Deer "B", $5.00; Mountain Goat, $15.00; Mountain Sheep, $25.00; Moose, $25.00; Antelope, $3.00; Grizzly Bear, $1.00+$25.00 trophy fee if a grizzly is taken.

Resident hunters who hold any big game license will be authorized to hunt black bear.

A bow and arrow stamp for special pre-gun seasons will be $3.00. Turkey tags will be $2.00 in addition to the bird license. Outside of needing a bird license before purchase of a turkey tag, there will not be any prerequisite licenses. When hunting special pre-gun archery seasons, hunters must have both the proper game tag and the special archery stamp.

Residents 65 years old and older can fish and hunt game birds, excepting wild turkeys, without licenses. They must have proof of age with them. If they wish to hunt turkeys, senior citizens will be required to buy only the turkey tag.

A resident sportsman's license will include fishing and bird hunting, one deer and one elk. Cost of the license is $20.00. Additional money accrued from sale of the sportsman's license will be used for bettering landowner-sportsmen's relationships.

Residents 12, 13, and 14 years old will be able to purchase deer, elk and bird licenses for one-half the cost. Persons who did not hold an antelope license in a year previous to application will get first chance at antelope licenses.

Nonresident Licenses:

Six-day fishing, $5.00; season fishing, $15.00; season bird, $25.00; general hunting and fishing, $125 (includes 1 elk, 1 deer ,fishing, birds, 1 black bear). Nonresidents who wish to hunt for a second deer in two-deer areas must pay $35.00 in addition to the general license. The nonresident general license cost will go to $150.00 in 1968.

Other costs of nonresident licenses are: Mountain goat, $30.00; Mountain Sheep, $50.00; Moose, $50.00; Antelope $10.00; grizzly bear $25.00+$25.00 trophy fee. A $125.00 license is prerequisite to the purchase of these licenses.

A special black bear license good in western Montana, from opening of black bear season through August 31, will be offered to nonresidents for $35.00. A limited number of special deer and antelope licenses may be issued for some Montana areas. These would be $35.00 each.

SB 42—Effective March 2, 1967

This amendment to the 1963 motorboat fuel tax law provides that 6/10 of 1% of the gasoline tax collected in Montana will go to the state parks fund. This money may be used only on water-based parks, however. The amendment also makes it possible for boat users to get a refund on fuels used in boat motors.

This revenue is the life blood of many parks areas. It becomes especially important in that much of it is matched on a 50-50 basis with federal funds available under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

SB 75—Effective February 15, 1967

Persons must now be residents of Montana for a period of at least six months immediately prior to

Your 1966 fishing license expires April 30. If you are under 15, you need not have a fishing license. If you are a Montana resident 65 years old or older, you need not have a fishing license after May 1 to fish in Montana, but you must carry proof of age.

applying for resident hunting and fishing licenses. Under the previous law, any resident could buy resident licenses, regardless of how long they had resided in the state.

SB 76—Effective February 15, 1967

Previously the Fish and Game Commission was empowered by law to set snagging seasons on kokanee and by resolution to set snagging seasons on paddlefish.

The commission may now, by law, set snagging seasons on kokanee (sockeye salmon) Coho (silver salmon) and paddlefish. A long-bow and arrow season may also be declared on paddlefish.

Paddlefish cannot be taken by conventional fishing methods. Coho, a species of salmon which die after spawning, are being reared for introduction into state waters, and will likely inhabit the same spawning areas with koknaee.

SB 100—Effective February 22, 1967

Presently, the only state park which takes in any money is Lewis and Clark Caverns. During past years, the money taken in by the Caverns has gone into the state's general tax fund. SB 100 will direct the money to the Fish and Game Commission for use in state parks.

NEW MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN

The pilot issue of "Ranger Rick's Nature Magazine for Children" was published in January by the National Wildlife Federation. This magazine is intended as an educational aid in the field of nature and natural science.

The attractive magazine is chuck full of colors and interesting materials for youngsters.

This excellent educational magazine may be obtained upon payment of $6.00 annual membership dues to the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

TIPS ON HUNTING BLACK BEAR

Montana's spring black bear season opened March 15, and western Montana mountains boast some real bear country. In fact, the black bear numbers here are hardly touched through hunting. But the hunter who heads for rough country with dreams of a bear trophy has his work cut out for him. In fact, the fellow who takes to the timber with a rifle and high hopes but no knowledge of bear habits is likely to come out sore-legged and empty-handed. If the few tips offered here are practiced, sportsmen will have a substantially better chance of getting that bear rug.

WHERE TO HUNT—Black bears are inhabitants of mountainous areas. Nearly all of Montana west of the Continental Divide and the eastern slopes of the main divide offer bear hunting.

Some of the areas of higher concentration are the Swan Valley, the South and Middle Forks of the Flathead, the Whitefish Range, the St. Regis River, Thompson Falls west, and the Libby country. Side drainages of these areas are best because they cut through steep topography affording hunters a good view of side hills.

WHEN TO HUNT—a large part of the black bears that fall to hunters are taken before the general big game season opens. Another large percentage are taken during the first two weeks of the general big game season. By November, black bear hunting is about wound up. This is generally the pattern for bear hunting, because about the first or middle of November, depending on weather, black bears go into hibernation.

Bear hunters are most successful during spring. During the spring and early summer, bruin gathers with his kin on side hill parks, snowslide areas, and grassy logging roads below the snowline. Here they feed upon wheat grass, angelica, horse-tail, dandelions and clover. Since the area that a bear ranges is relatively small (often less than one square mile) individuals feed regularly in such areas where these plants abound. Clear-cut logged areas are seldom used.

Feeding activity is highest during the morning until around 9:00 a.m. and in the evenings from about 4:00 p.m. until dark. They may, however, forage for food any time of day.

Bears also congregate during late summer and fall, but at this time they move into the dense vegetation of creek bottoms or north slopes. There they feed upon huckleberries, cow parsnips, dogwood berries, buckthorn berries, etc. Bruin is hard to find in the thick growths, but some are more exposed along roads and open creek bottoms where they feed on dandelions and horse-tail. Also, for a short time around the first of September, bears frequent high ridges and divides in search of white-bark pine cones, wire grass or woodrush.

In late fall, bears are still feeding upon berries. The fruit of mountain ash in western Montana which grows on north slopes and rockslides of the south slopes, become important at this time. They will feed upon mountain ash after the leaves have fallen from most bushes and are thus more easily seen in brushy areas. There is often tracking snow in the mountains at this time of year.

THE HIDE AND MEAT

Hides are usually prime and suitable for trophies from early spring until about the middle of June, and from about mid-August until they hibernate. Care should be taken with the hides, especially in warm weather. Several pounds of salt should be rubbed into all parts of the fleshy side of the hide. The hide can then be rolled but should be salted again in several days. If it is not necessary to roll the hide, salt it well and leave it spread out. Never roll an unsalted hide unless it is to be frozen and never leave any hide lying for vary long in direct sunlight.

Although hunters are not required to use the meat of black bears, the meat is good to eat all through the season—though most persons prefer bears killed in the fall. The meat should be treated the same as meat of any other game animal. Properly cooled and aged, all cuts are good. Like most game, the quality of meat will vary with animals, but commer-

cial shops can make good sausage from any properly handled bear.

LICENSES

Residents who hold a 1966 big game license of any kind may legally hunt black bear, provided they have not already taken a bear during the license year. The license year will end April 30, 1967 and beginning May 1, a 1967 big game license will be required of residents who want to hunt black bears.

The grizzly bear season will not open until fall. There is a special $1.00 resident grizzly license, and persons who are successful in taking a grizzly are required to pay an additional $25.00 trophy fee. Beginning 1967, hunters may legally take both a black and grizzly bear during a license year.

Nonresidents may get a special spring black bear license which allows them to hunt black bear in western Montana through August 31. During the grizzly season, nonresidents who hold a $125.00 general license will be able to hunt a grizzly by paying and additional $25.00. Another $25.00 trophy fee will be required of nonresident hunters who are successful in taking a grizzly.

PUBLIC INVITED TO CONSERVATION COUNCIL MEET IN BUTTE

Bob Cooney, Assistant Chief of Recreation for the Montana Fish and Game Department, and president of the Montana Conservation Council, reports that the council will be holding its annual meeting in Butte at the Finlen Hotel, April 21-22.

The Conservation Council is made up of a broad cross section of conservation-minded people of Montana. Throughout the years, annual themes for the meetings have been chosen which would focus special attention upon timely aspects of the state's natural resource programs. Wildlife, recreation, water, timber, range and forest administration are only a few of the subjects touched upon in past annual meetings. Such related subjects as conservation education, coordination between agencies and groups as well as effective leadership training for professionals in the natural resource fields have also been woven into the very interesting annual forum-type programs.

This year's program should be especially interesting. Mineral resources will be highlighted. This is, of course, one of the oldest and most basic segments of the State's economy. The discovery of gold in the streambeds of western Montana somewhat over a century ago, set off a chain of events which has done much to shape the colorful history of our state.

We have watched with much interest events of the past, and we should certainly have learned from them. For example, we would not want the land left, from anticipated coal stripping, in the devestated state like much of it remains as the result of dredging by gold-seekers. It has been pleasing to note indications that the mineral industry in general has a real interest in the broad aspects of conservation.

We now hope, by means of a carefully developed program, to gain a glimpse into the future. It will be most timely to hear how the mineral production of tomorrow will tie in with the rapidly developing concepts of conservation. Many problems of this kind have been worked out in the past. Others will, no doubt, be worked out in the future. Public understanding of the problems involved should help.

The public is urged to attend the meetings.

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